

C A M P A I G N F O R
ACCOUNTABILITY

September 1, 2017

BY EMAIL: Colin.Smith@iowa.gov

Colin Smith
Legal Counsel
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
1007 East Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Re: Examination of Public Records Act Request

Dear Mr. Smith:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes and photographs, pursuant to the Iowa Examination of Public Records Law, Iowa Code Chapter 22 *et seq.*

First, CfA seeks any and all communications to, from, or between any employee of the Office of the Governor and any of the following individuals or organizations:

- 1) Maggie DeWitte
- 2) Iowans for Life
- 3) Jenifer Bowen
- 4) Iowa Right to Life
- 5) Chuck Hurley
- 6) Bob Vander Plaats
- 7) The Family Leader
- 8) The Family Leader Foundation
- 9) Life Right Action

This request is for records from January 1, 2016 to the present.

By way of background, on May 12, 2017, Governor Terry Branstad signed House File 653 into law.¹ The bill requires the Iowa Department of Human Services to end its Medicaid

¹ <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=hf653>.

waiver for family planning, foregoing \$3 million in federal funding.² The individuals and organizations listed above advocated for passage of the bill.³

Where possible, please produce records electronically. CfA seeks records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs. This request includes any letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. This request also includes any attachments to these records.

If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure pursuant to Iowa Code § 22.7, please state the basis of the exemption. Please explain in writing and with particularity the reasons for any determination that a record is exempt from disclosure. In the event that a portion of a requested record is properly exempt from disclosure, please redact that portion and produce the remainder of the requested record. If you deny this request in whole or in part, please specify each exemption on which you are relying to withhold information.

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information to inform and educate the public about the state's oversight responsibilities regarding public funding for private organizations. Accordingly, because CfA seeks the information to benefit the general public, we request that the information be provided without charge. Iowa Code § 22.3. If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200.

Please promptly produce the requested records. If, however, production cannot occur within 10 business days, please inform me when the records will be available. Iowa Code § 22.8(4)(d). If you are unable to meet this statutorily required time period, or foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, please contact me at 202-780-5750.

Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable the Office of the Governor to process it.

² William Petroski, Planned Parenthood to Close Four Iowa Clinics After Legislative Defunding, *The Des Moines Register*, May 18, 2017, available at <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2017/05/18/planned-parenthood-close-four-iowa-clinics-after-legislative-defunding/330284001/>.

³ *Id.*; William Petroski, Amid Heated Rhetoric, Iowa Senate Votes to Halt Planned Parenthood Funding, *The Des Moines Register*, February 2, 2017, available at <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2017/02/02/amid-heated-rhetoric-iowa-senate-votes-halt-planned-parenthood-funding/97378012/>; <https://twitter.com/bobvanderplaats/status/865349391426519041>; <http://liferightaction.org/blog/>.

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If possible, please email the records to me at dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org.
If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Ave S.E., #337, Washington, D.C. 20003.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan E. Stevens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel E. Stevens
Executive Director